

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTIONS

Reservoir Name Bison Bone Reservoir, Phillips County

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? N/A

Location:

County Phillips Township 24N Range 27E Section 32

Name of the drainage where the pond is located unnamed

Name(s) of fish species proposed for introduction tiger musky

Is this species legally present in the drainage? yes

Species of special concern present in the drainage none in immediate drainage

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations?

None X Minor Major

Comments: This reservoir is located on an ephemeral tributary of Beauchamp creek and tiger muskies are sterile. Numbers would be controlled by annual stocking.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or predation?

None Minor X Major

Comments: The purpose of the introduction is to utilize an abundant rough fish population to support a sport fish population. The reservoir currently contains large numbers of white suckers and yellow perch.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction?

None Minor x Major

Comments:
Some amphibians may be eaten.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location?

None x Minor Major

Comments: Tiger muskies are sterile.

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked? Yes

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? No

Describe reasonable and prudent alternatives to this action, if any (including no action).

Other predators such as northern pike or walleye could be utilized but reproduction would be uncontrolled.

No action will deny fishermen the opportunity to develop this water into a sport fishery.

Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any.

State fishing regulations

List any other agencies or individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction:

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

List all agencies and individuals who have been notified of this proposed introduction:

U.S. Bureau of Land management

Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required? If no, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action. No, minor and controllable impacts anticipated

EA prepared by: Kent Gilge, Region 6 Fisheries Biologist

Comments will be accepted until August 31, 2002

Comments should be sent to: MT. Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
RT 1-4210
Glasgow, MT 59230